

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 310612Z JUL 75  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8800

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, TH  
SUBJ: VIOLENCE AT CERAMIC TILE PRODUCTS STRIKE

1. THE THAI LABOR MOVEMENT REACHED A MILESTONE WITH THE DEATH OF A SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL STRIKER IN A SHOOTING INCIDENT ON JULY 26 AT THE CERAMIC TILE PRODUCTS CO. PLANT IN SAMUT SAKHON PROVINCE. THE GIRL WAS KILLED WHEN STRIKING WORKERS STORMED THE PLANT GATE IN AN EFFORT TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS INSIDE. FIVE ARMED GUARDS INSIDE THE PLANT OPENED FIRE WITH SHOT-GUNS, KILLING THE GIRL AND THE GUARD LEADER WHILE WOUNDING SEVERAL STRIKERS.

2. IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT, SEVERAL GROUPS OF LABORERS FROM NEARBY PLANTS AS WELL AS STUDENTS HAVE JOINED THE STRIKERS' VIGIL OVER THE BODY OF THE DEAD GIRL. PRESS REPORTS EMPHASIZE THAT THE GIRL HAD SUPPORTED HER PARENTS AND TWO YOUNGER SISTERS AND QUESTION THE UNTIMELY REMOVAL, ONLY TWO HOURS BEFORE THE INCIDENT, OF POLICE ASSIGNED TO MAINTAIN PEACE AT THE PLANT. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOR COORDINATION CENTER OF THAILAND, A RADICAL ORGANIZATION UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THOETPHUM CHAIDI AND SEKSAN PRASOETKUN, CLAIMS THE REMOVAL OF THE POLICE WAS DESIGNED TO INTIMIDATE THE WORKERS INTO A SETTLEMENT. STRIKERS' CLAIM THAT THEY WERE UNARMED IS REGARDED WITH SKEPTICISM BY SEVERAL MODERATE LABOR

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FIGURES.

3. EMBOLDENED BY SUPPORT RECEIVED SINCE THE INCIDENT, STRIKERS HAVE THREATENED VIOLENCE IF DEMANDS FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE DEAD AND INJURED, A STRIKERS' WELFARE FUND, AND FOR REOPENING OF THE PLANT ARE NOT MET.

4. COMMENT: THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE LABOR COORDINATION CENTER OF THAILAND AND THE EMBOLDENED ATTITUDE OF THE STRIKERS MAKE CONFRONTATION MORE LIKELY THAN CONCILIATION. WHETHER THIS UNREST REMAINS LIMITED TO THE CERAMIC TILE PRODUCTS CO. OR SPREADS THROUGHOUT THE INDUSTRIAL SUBURBS WILL REVEAL THE DEPTH OF DISSATISFACTION IN THE INDUSTRIAL BELT SURROUNDING BANGKOK. WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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